

Triphosphane formation from the terminal zirconium phosphinidene complex $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PDmp}(\text{PMe}_3)]$ ($\text{Dmp} = 2,6\text{-Mes}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$) and crystal structure of $\text{DmpP}(\text{PPh}_2)_2$

Eugenijus Urnezis^a, Kin-Chung Lam^b, Arnold L. Rheingold^b,
John D. Protasiewicz^{a,*}

^a Department of Chemistry, Case Western Reserve University, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106-7708, USA

^b Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716-2522, USA

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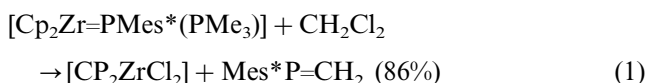
Abstract

The new terminal phosphinidene complex $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PDmp}(\text{PMe}_3)]$ ($\text{Dmp} = 2,6\text{-Mes}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$; **1**) was prepared in 81% yield by the reaction of $[\text{Li}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})][\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}]$ with $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{Me})\text{Cl}]$ in the presence of excess PMe_3 . Compound **1** reacts with Ph_2PCl to produce selectively the sterically congested triphosphane $\text{DmpP}(\text{PPh}_2)_2$ (**2**) and $[\text{Cp}_2\text{ZrCl}_2]$ in high yields. The structure of **2** obtained by X-ray diffraction analysis of a single crystal reveals phosphorus–phosphorus bond lengths of 2.251(2) and 2.234(2) Å and a PPP bond angle of 105.46(6)°. © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Phosphorus; Phosphinidene complexes; Triphosphane; Crystal structures; Electrophile addition

1. Introduction

Organozirconium complexes have found widespread use in the synthesis of new organophosphorus compounds [1]. In particular, a number of fascinating materials have been prepared using the readily prepared terminal phosphinidene complex $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PMes}^*(\text{PMe}_3)]$ ($\text{Mes}^* = 2,4,6\text{-t-Bu}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2$) to deliver the phosphinidene ‘ PMes^* ’ [2,3]. The high oxo- and chlorophilicity of the zirconium center in $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PMes}^*(\text{PMe}_3)]$ will readily allow exchange of its phosphinidene unit for two chlorine atoms or an oxygen atom of a substrate to form either $[\text{Cp}_2\text{ZrCl}_2]$ or $[\text{Cp}_2\text{ZrO}]_n$, respectively. For example, reaction of $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PMes}^*(\text{PMe}_3)]$ with dichloromethane affords a rapid and convenient synthesis of the methylenephosphaalkene $\text{Mes}^*\text{P}=\text{CH}_2$ in good yields (Eq. (1)).



* Corresponding author. Tel.: +1-216-368-5060; fax: +1-216-368-3006.

E-mail address: jdp5@po.cwru.edu (J.D. Protasiewicz).

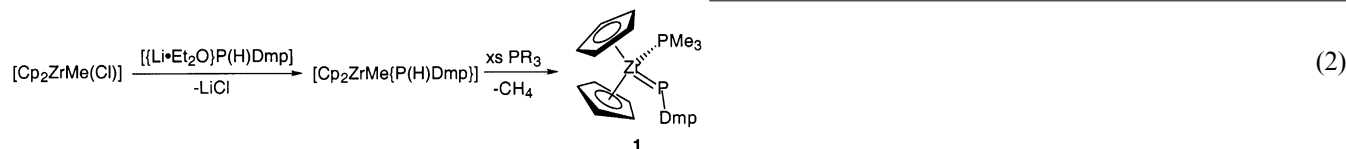
Phosphinidene transfers using this reagent are also equally effective for other phosphorus–heteroatom bond forming processes using germanium, silicon, and tin halides [2].

We are interested in developing zirconium-based transfer chemistry for phosphinidenes bearing *meta*-terphenyl [4,5] protected phosphorus centers [6–21]. In particular, we sought new methods for constructing phosphorus–phosphorus bonds that might utilize zirconium phosphinidene complexes [13]. Herein we present the synthesis of a terminal phosphinidene complex bearing a *meta*-terphenyl ligand and its reaction with a chlorophosphine to generate a novel triphosphane.

2. Results and discussion

Stephan and Breen have illustrated that the terminal phosphinidene complex $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PMes}^*(\text{PMe}_3)]$ is produced in high yields by reaction of $[\text{Li}(\text{THF})_3][\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Mes}^*]$ with $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{Me})\text{Cl}]$ in the presence of excess PMe_3 [2]. Accordingly, this method was chosen for synthesis of the desired complex bearing the *meta*-terphenyl Dmp ($\text{Dmp} = 2,6\text{-Mes}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$) in place

of the supermesityl (Mes*) group. The new terminal phosphinidene complex $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PDmp}(\text{PMe}_3)]$ (**1**) was thus isolated as a deep green crystalline material by reaction of $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{Me})\text{Cl}]$ and $[\text{Li}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})][\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}]$ in the presence of excess PMe_3 in 81% yield (Eq. (2)).



Compound **1** is thermally stable in the absence of air or water. The presumed precursor to **1**, $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{Me})\{\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}\}]$, can be isolated as a somewhat unstable orange solid if the reaction is performed in the absence of trialkylphosphine (^{31}P -NMR (C_6D_6): δ 33.3 (d, $J_{\text{PH}} = 255$ Hz)). However, attempts to purify this material completely were unsuccessful. The ^1H - and $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectra of **1** are in accord with the previously characterized zirconium phosphinidene complex [3]. For example, the phosphinidene signal in the

$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR of **1** is found at δ 771.0 (d, $J_{\text{PP}} = 23$ Hz), which can be compared to data for $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PMe}_3^*(\text{PMe}_3)]$: δ 792.4 (d, $J_{\text{PP}} = 23$ Hz). Unfortunately, a high quality X-ray structure of **1** could not be obtained. A preliminary structure, however, confirmed the expected

Table 1
Crystal data and structure refinement for $\text{DmpP}(\text{PPh}_2)_2$ (**2**)

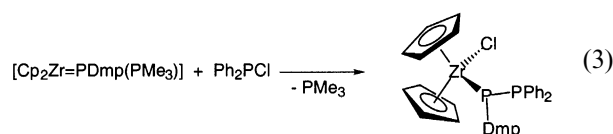
Empirical formula	$\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{45}\text{P}_3$
Formula weight	714.75
Temperature (K)	173(2)
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/n$
Unit cell dimensions	
a (Å)	11.2205(2)
b (Å)	21.8735(4)
c (Å)	16.0223(3)
α (°)	90
β (°)	93.7125(8)
γ (°)	90
V (Å ³)	3924.14(17)
Z	4
D_{calc} (Mg m ⁻³)	1.210
Absorption coefficient (cm ⁻¹)	1.85
$F(000)$	1512
Crystal size (mm)	$0.45 \times 0.25 \times 0.15$
θ Range for data collection	$2.04\text{--}24.00^\circ$
Index ranges	$-11 < h < 12, -25 < k < 22, -18 < l < 17$
Reflections collected	13 597
Independent reflections	5620 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0599$]
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data/restraints/parameters	5620/0/460
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	2.103
Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0784, wR_2 = 0.1749$
R indices (all data) ^{a,b}	$R_1 = 0.1026, wR_2 = 0.1860$
Largest difference peak and hole (e Å ⁻³)	0.442 and -0.441

^a $R(F) = \Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o|$.

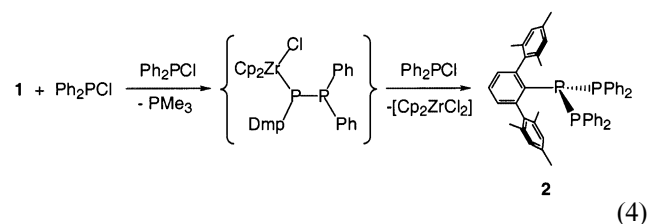
^b $R_w(F^2) = [\Sigma \{w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2\} / \Sigma \{w(F_o^2)^2\}]^{0.5}$; $w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP$, where $P = [F_o^2 + 2F_c^2]/3$ and a and b are constants adjusted by the program.

gross structural features of **1**. In particular, a short $\text{Zr}=\text{P}$ bond length of $d_{\text{Zr}=\text{P}} = 2.446(8)$ Å (compare to $d_{\text{Zr}=\text{P}} = 2.505(4)$ Å for $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PMe}_3^*(\text{PMe}_3)]$) and a significantly bent zirconium phosphinidene array with a $\text{Zr}=\text{P}-\text{C}$ angle of $123.2(8)^\circ$ could be ascertained.

We previously reported on the structural characterization of the stable phosphanido complexes $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{Cl})\{\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}\}]$ and $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}\{\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}\}_2]$ [20]. Although Group 4 phosphanido complexes are well-known species, species of the form $[\text{Cp}_2\text{M}(\text{Cl})\{\text{P}(\text{PR}_2)_2\}]$ are rare or unknown [22]. Thus the reaction of **1** with Ph_2PCl was examined with the anticipation that $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{Cl})\{\text{P}(\text{PPh}_2)_2\}]$ might be isolable (Eq. (3)).



Reaction of equimolar amounts of **1** and Ph_2PCl is rapid and affords a single new organophosphorus species. Surprisingly, the new species is not a zirconium phosphanido complex but the novel triphosphane $\text{DmpP}(\text{PPh}_2)_2$ (**2**; Eq. (4)). The triphosphane displays very diagnostic ^{31}P resonances at δ -18.0 (d, $J_{\text{PP}} = 221$ Hz) and -52.3 (t, $J_{\text{PP}} = 221$ Hz). As expected for the stoichiometry of the reaction, the ^{31}P -NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture shows remaining **1**. If the reaction is performed with two equivalents of Ph_2PCl , then **1** is consumed completely and the triphosphane **2** is produced in essentially quantitative yield ($> 95\%$ by ^1H -NMR).



Crystals of **2** were grown from a THF–hexanes mixture at -35°C and the results of a single-crystal X-ray structure determination is presented in Fig. 1 and Tables 1 and 2. Despite the severe steric crowding in the molecule, the geometry at each phosphorus atom is

Table 2
Selected bond lengths and bond angles for DmpP(PPh₂)₂ (**2**)

P(1)–P(2)	2.2516(15)	C(1)–P(1)–P(3)	102.96(13)
P(1)–P(3)	2.2343(15)	C(1)–P(1)–P(2)	104.15(13)
P(1)–C(1)	1.859(5)	P(3)–P(1)–P(2)	105.46(6)
P(2)–C(25)	1.867(4)	C(2)–C(1)–P(1)	111.5(3)
P(2)–C(31)	1.846(5)	C(6)–C(1)–P(1)	128.9(3)
P(3)–C(37)	1.842(4)	C(31)–P(2)–C(25)	99.4(2)
P(3)–C(43)	1.844(4)	C(31)–P(2)–P(1)	95.84(14)
		C(25)–P(2)–P(1)	98.90(13)
		C(43)–P(3)–C(37)	101.68(19)
		C(43)–P(3)–P(1)	100.33(14)
		C(1)–C(6)–C(16)	124.3(4)
		C(3)–C(2)–C(7)	120.5(4)
		C(37)–P(3)–P(1)	105.60(13)

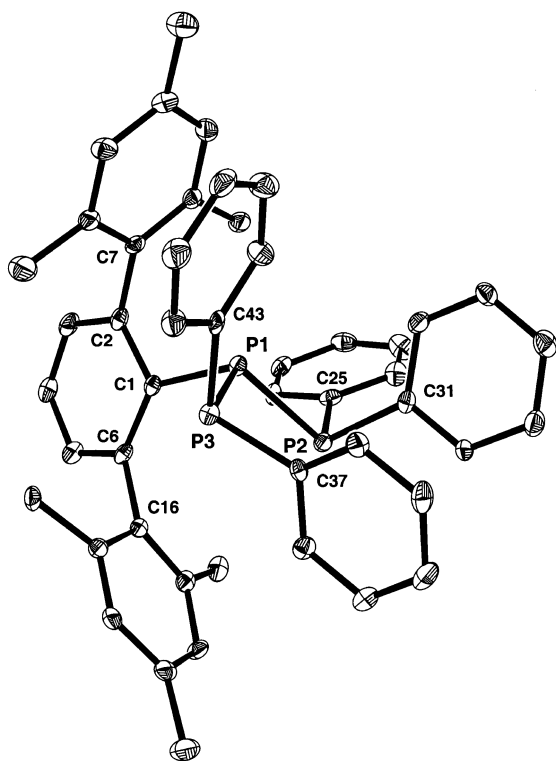


Fig. 1. Thermal ellipsoid plot for DmpP(PPh₂)₂.

essentially pyramidal. The PP bond lengths of 2.251(2) and 2.234(2) Å and the PPP bond angle of 105.46(6)° are comparable to values reported for two recent crystallographically characterized silyltriphosphanes. For example, in ¹Pr₃SiP(PPh₂)₂ the PP bond lengths are 2.243(1) and 2.217(1) Å and the PPP bond angle is 100.0(1)° [23]. Likewise, Me₃SiP(P^tBu)₂ displays PP bond lengths of 2.1895(4) and 2.1964(4) Å and a PPP bond angle of 118.72(2)° [24]. All of the values are in rough agreement with ab initio calculations (HF/6-31G** level of theory) for hypothetical P₃H₃ that predict the most stable isomer to have PP bond lengths of 2.211 Å and a PPP bond angle of 110.27° [25].

Several other structural features of **2** merit comment. First, two pairs of nearly coplanar aromatic rings can be discerned (Fig. 1) that might suggest π stacking. The pair of phenyl rings containing atoms C(31) and C(37) deviate from coplanarity by only 18.9°, and have a centroid–centroid distance of 4.02 Å. The pair of aromatic rings involving atoms C(7) and C(43) are also nearly coplanar (13.7°), but lie at a slightly greater distance from one another (centroid–centroid distance of 4.54 Å). Second, the two PPh₂ groups are directed toward one of the two mesityl rings, and the resulting steric clashes force the P(PPh₂)₂ unit further away from this mesityl ring. This effect is evinced by a 17° disparity in the corresponding C(*n*)–C(1)–P(1) bond angles (C(*n*) = C(2) and C(6)). Third, steric clashes between the P(PPh₂)₂ unit and the Dmp group also force P(1) out of the plane of the phenyl ring containing C(1) by 0.43 Å. The Dmp ligand also reacts to the steric pressures by moving the mesityl rings away from the PPh₂ unit, as indicated by movement of the *ipso*-carbons of the mesityl rings to the opposite side of the central phenyl ring by 0.28 and 0.31 Å for C(7) and C(16), respectively. These structural distortions give rise to a P(1)⋯C(7) ring centroid distance of 3.74 Å, which is longer than the Menshutkin-type interactions observed in the related *meta*-terphenyls 2,6-Ar₂-C₆H₃ECI₂ (Ar = Mes or 2,4,6-ⁱPr₃C₆H₂; E = As, Bi or Sb; *d*_{E⋯centroid} ~ 3.4 Å) [14].

A reasonable pathway for the formation of DmpP(PPh₂)₂ is outlined in Eq. (4). The putative intermediate [Cp₂Zr(Cl){P(PPh₂)Dmp}], although not stable, finds precedent in the related reaction of [Cp₂Zr=PMes*(PMe₃)] and Me₂SiCl₂. This reaction produces Mes*P(SiMe₂Cl)₂, but if the reaction stoichiometry is 0.5 [Cp₂Zr=PMes*(PMe₃)] to 1.0 Me₂SiCl₂, the intermediate phosphanido complex [Cp₂Zr(Cl)-{P(Mes*)Si(Cl)Me₂}] can be isolated in 71% yield [2].

The inability to isolate [Cp₂Zr(Cl){P(Dmp)PPh₂}] is probably not a consequence of steric factors. Related phosphanido complexes [Cp₂Zr(Cl){P(H)Dmp}] and [Cp₂Zr{P(H)Dmp}₂] have been prepared and characterized structurally [20]. The latter material is quite thermally robust. Likewise, the extremely hindered mono-phosphanido complex [Cp₂Zr(Cl){P(Mes*)-SiMe₃}] shows noteworthy thermal and photochemical stability [26]. The failure to isolate [Cp₂Zr(Cl){P(Dmp)-PPh₂}] probably lies in its enhanced reactivity with Ph₂PCl (relative to **1**).

Alternative mechanisms for formation of **2** involving radical intermediates (such as Ph₂P•) are unlikely, as the reaction is exceptionally clean and Ph₂PPPPh₂ (the anticipated coupling product of two free Ph₂P• radicals) is not detected. The reaction of DmpPCl₂ with two equivalents of LiPPh₂ (or KPPh₂) was investigated briefly as an independent means for generating DmpP(PPh₂)₂. This reaction gives multiple products, the major species actually being Ph₂PPPPh₂.

3. Conclusions

The terminal phosphinidene complex $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PDmp}(\text{PMe}_3)]$ (**1**) was prepared and found to react cleanly with Ph_2PCl to produce the sterically congested triphosphane $\text{DmpP}(\text{PPh}_2)_2$ (**2**). The structure of **2** obtained by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis confirms the sterically congested nature of the central phosphorus atom.

4. Experimental

4.1. General procedures

All reactions, unless stated separately, were performed in a Vacuum Atmospheres dry-box under dry N_2 . All solvents were distilled from purple Na–benzophenone solutions. DmpPH_2 [6], $[\text{Li}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})][\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}]$ [20], and $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{Me})\text{Cl}]$ [27] were prepared as reported. ^1H -NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Gemini 300 or 200 MHz instruments and referenced using residual solvent proton signals. ^{31}P -NMR spectra were recorded on the Varian Gemini 300 MHz instrument operating at 121.47 MHz and referenced to external H_3PO_4 standard. Mass spectrometry was performed at the CWRU departmental facility. Elemental analyses were performed by Oneida Research Services.

4.2. Synthesis of $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}=\text{PDmp}(\text{PMe}_3)]$ (**1**)

$[\text{Li}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})][\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}]$ (1.40 g, 3.29 mmol) and $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{Me})\text{Cl}]$ (0.87 g, 3.18 mmol) were dissolved in 20 ml of a 1.0 M toluene solution of PMe_3 (20.0 mmol) at room temperature. The solution turned orange–yellow immediately upon dissolution and progressively turned to a dark green solution over a period of 2 days. The solution was filtered and the volume of the filtrate was reduced in vacuo until substantial amounts of a dark green solid had precipitated. The solid was filtered off, washed with hexanes and dried in vacuo to afford 1.66 g of dark green **1a** (81%). Analytical quality samples were obtained by crystallization from hot toluene–hexanes (ca. 1:1) mixture. ^1H -NMR (C_6D_6): δ 7.15 (m, 3H), 6.82 (s, 4H), 5.43 (s, 5H), 5.42 (s, 5H), 2.43 (s, 12H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 0.41 (d, 9H, $J_{\text{HP}} = 7.0$ Hz). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR (C_6D_6): δ 771.0 (d, $J_{\text{PP}} = 23$ Hz), -6.7 (d, $J_{\text{PP}} = 23$ Hz). Anal. Found: C, 69.44; H, 7.00. Calc. for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{44}\text{P}_2\text{Zr}$: C, 69.23; H, 6.91%.

4.3. Synthesis of $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{CH}_3)\{\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}\}]$

To a mixture of $[\text{Li}(\text{Et}_2\text{O})][\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}]$ (0.59 g, 1.38 mmol) and $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{CH}_3)\text{Cl}]$ (0.374 g, 1.375 mmol) was added a mixture of toluene (4 ml)– Et_2O (3 ml). The

reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min and then filtered to afford 0.62 g of orange solid which was ascertained to be predominantly $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Zr}(\text{CH}_3)\{\text{P}(\text{H})\text{Dmp}\}]$ (ca. 95%) by ^1H - and ^{31}P -NMR spectroscopy (crude yield 77%). ^1H -NMR (C_6D_6): δ 7.07 (m, 1H), 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.94 (s, 4H), 5.49 (s, 10H), 4.37 (d, 1H, $J_{\text{HP}} = 255$ Hz), 2.28 (s, 12H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 0.44 (d, 3H, $J_{\text{HP}} = 8.3$ Hz). ^{31}P -NMR (C_6D_6): δ 33.3 (d, $J_{\text{HP}} = 255$ Hz).

4.4. Synthesis of $\text{DmpP}(\text{PPh}_2)_2$ (**2**)

To a stirred solution of **1** (0.12 g, 0.18 mmol) in 6 ml of benzene was added PPh_2Cl (66.0 μl , 0.37 mmol) via a microliter syringe. The reaction mixture gradually turned pale yellow. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was filtered through alumina plug and all volatiles were removed in vacuo, affording 0.131 g (95% yield based on ^1H -NMR vs internal *para*-dimethoxybenzene) of pale yellow $\text{DmpP}(\text{PPh}_2)_2$ (**2**). ^1H -NMR (C_6D_6): δ 7.04 (m, 9H), 6.93 (m, 2H), 6.83 (m, 16H), 2.31 (s, 6H), 2.15 (s, 12H). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR (C_6D_6): δ -18.0 (d, $J_{\text{PP}} = 221$ Hz), -52.3 (t, $J_{\text{PP}} = 221$ Hz). HRMS (EI) *m/z* Found: 714.2741. Calc. for $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{45}\text{P}_3$: 714.2737. X-ray quality crystals were obtained after slow crystallization from hot THF–hexanes mixture (ca. 1:5) at -35°C .

4.5. X-ray crystallography for **2**

The single-crystal X-ray diffraction experiment was performed on a Siemens P4/CCD diffractometer for **2**. Systematic absences and diffraction symmetry for **2** were consistent with the monoclinic space group $P2_1/n$. The structure was solved by direct methods, completed by subsequent difference Fourier syntheses and refined by full-matrix, least-squares procedures. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic coefficients and all hydrogen atoms were treated as idealized contributions.

All software and sources of the scattering factors were contained in the SHELXTL (5.03) program library (G. Sheldrick, Siemens XRD, Madison, WI).

5. Supplementary material

Crystallographic data for structural analysis have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC no. 158176 for **2**. Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (Fax: +44-1223-336033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or www: <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk>).

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